

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

B4  
Claim 1 (Currently Amended) [Mud] A mud suction unit having a receiving container, to which a suction element is attached for drawing in a muddy fluid and a discharging element for setting the muddy fluid that has been drawn in into motion, said discharging container having a filling limit for said muddy fluid, and a motor for generating a suction flow, the [motor] mud suction unit comprising a shut-off mechanism operable to shut off said motor automatically [being shut off] when [a] said filling limit of the muddy fluid is reached, characterized therein that the discharging element comprises a vacuum valve which is closed during a suction process due to the negative pressure present in the receiving container and opened when the motor is switched off automatically by said shut-off mechanism due to the change in internal pressure present in the receiving container.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) [Mud] A mud suction unit according to claim 1, characterized therein that the shut-off mechanism comprises that the motor is connected with a ball valve which is situated in the area of [a] said filling limit in the receiving container and which closes when the filling limit is reached.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) [Mud] A mud suction unit according to claim 1, characterized therein that the receiving container has a connection for the suction element in an upper part of

the receiving container at [the] a cover end and a connection for the discharging element in a lower part of the receiving container at [the] a bottom end.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) [Mud] A mud suction unit according to claim 3, characterized therein that the suction element connection is diametrically opposite the discharge elemnt connection.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) [Mud] A mud suction unit according to claim 1, characterized therein that the suction element has a grip area at which a remote control is located for switching the motor on or off.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) [Mud] A mud suction unit according to claim 1, characterized therein that a suction tube is formed at one free end of the suction element on which a suction nozzle can be placed, the suction nozzle being provided with a claw-type lower part which has a number of webs.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) [Mud] A mud suction unit according to claim 6, characterized therein that the suction nozzle has a suction slit, the width of whose opening being adjustable.